

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227239 TOSEC 270092

FOR LORD ONLY FROM BARTHOLOMEW

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS OVIP (KISSINGER,H.A)UNGA,PFOR,KN,KS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S UNGA SPEECH - KOREA SECTION

REF: SECTO 27009, SECTO 27013

1. FOLLOWING IS KOREA SECTION DRAFTED BY ARMACOST AND SEEN BY HUMMEL, HURWITZ, BAKER AND O'DONOHUE. IF WE INTRODUCE THIS TO OUR POSITION, WE WILL HAVE TO UNDERTAKE EARLY CONSULTATIONS WITH ROK AND CORE GROUP IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPLICATING OUR LOBBYING EFFORT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH

KOREA REMAINS A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY.

THE VITAL INTERESTS OF FOUR WORLD POWERS INTERSECT IN

KOREA. ALL SHARE AN INTEREST IN PREVENTING A RECURRENCE

OF WAR. IF PEACE IS TO BE PRESERVED, THE NATIONS CONCERNED

MUST COOPERATE TO EASE TENSIONS AND MOVE BEYOND A STERILE

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CONFRONTATION TOWARD SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE CENTRAL ISSUE IS: HOW CAN THE KOREAN PEOPLE
THEMSELVES DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE WITHOUT A RENEWAL OF
ARMED CONFLICT.

4. NORTH KOREA HAS PROPOSED THAT THE ISSUES OF PEACE
AND SECURITY ON THE PENINSULA BE DISCUSSED IN BILATERAL
TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT HAS REFUSED TO DEAL
MEANINGFULLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
WHO REPRESENT TWO-THIRDS OF THE KOREAN POPULATION.
PYONGYANG INSISTS ON THE UNCONDITIONAL DISSOLUTION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, WHICH IS A SIGNATORY TO THE
ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, WHILE REFUSING TO GIVE ASSURANCES
THAT THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE MAINTAINED AND RESISTING ANY
REALISTIC FORUM FOR NEGOTIATING ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

5. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT ACCEPT THESE PROPOSALS.
WE BELIEVE NATIONS TRULY CONCERNED WITH PEACE IN THE
PENINSULA WILL NOT SUPPORT THEM.

6. BUT WE DO NOT MAINTAIN THAT THE STATUS QUO IN KOREA
MUST REMAIN FOREVER FROZEN. ON THE CONTRARY, WE HAVE
URGED NEW NEGOTIATIONS TO PROMOTE SECURITY AND REDUCE

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TENSIONS. WE ARE PREPARED TO HAVE THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMAND DISSOLVED SO LONG AS THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT --
WHICH IS THE ONLY EXISTING LEGAL ARRANGEMENT COMMITTING
THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO KEEP THE PEACE -- IS EITHER

PRESERVED OR REPLACED WITH MORE DURABLE ARRANGEMENTS.

WE ARE WILLING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA,

PROVIDED THAT ITS ALLIES ARE READY TO TAKE SIMILAR STEPS

TOWARD SEOUL.

7. LAST FALL WE PROPOSED A CONFERENCE INCLUDING ALL THE

PARTIES MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED -- NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA,

THE UNITED STATES, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA -- TO

DISCUSS WAYS OF PRESERVING THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND

ATTENUATING NORTH-SOUTH CONFLICT. ON JULY 22, I AFFIRMED

OUR READINESS TO MEET IMMEDIATELY WITH THESE PARTIES TO

CONSIDER THE APPROPRIATE VENUE FOR A CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS

ADAPTING THE ARMISTICE OR REPLACING IT WITH MORE PERMANENT

ARRANGEMENTS.

8. WE ARE FLEXIBLE ABOUT HOW TO GET THIS PROCESS UNDER

WAY. IF IT SHOULD PROVE SIMPLER TO GET PREPARATIONS FOR

SUCH A CONFERENCE MOVING BY HAVING THE VENUE AND SCOPE

OF THE CONFERENCE EXPLORED INITIALLY BY SOUTH AND NORTH
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KOREA, WE WOULD BE SATISFIED TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT PHASE

AS AN OBSERVER AND WOULD SEE NO OBJECTION TO A SIMILAR

ROLE FOR THE PRC. IF SUCH DISCUSSIONS YIELD CONCRETE

RESULTS POINTING TOWARDS REVISED AND IMPROVED ARRANGE-

MENTS TO GUARANTEE PEACE ON THE PENINSULA, THE STAGE MAY

BE SET FOR A WIDER CONFERENCE TO ASSOCIATE OTHER COUNTRIES

WITH A STAKE IN KOREA WITH MORE DURABLE ARRANGEMENTS ON

THE PENINSULA.

9. IT IS URGENT, OF COURSE, THAT SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA

RESUME THEIR OWN DIALOGUE FOR THEY ALONE CAN DECIDE THE

ULTIMATE CHARACTER OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP. THEY MUST BEAR

THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF

THE PENINSULA.

10. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS ALREADY ON RECORD ENDORSING

TALKS TO EASE TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA AND CALLING FOR

THE RESUMPTION OF SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE. NO FURTHER ACTION

BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS NECESSARY.

11. THE ISSUE IS WHETHER NORTH KOREA, WHICH PROFESSES

ITS INTERESTS IN PEACE IN THE PENINSULA, IS PREPARED TO

ENTER INTO SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS TO EXPLORE MEANS OF

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IMPROVING THE EXISTING SITUATION. WE URGE THEM TO RESPOND

AFFIRMATIVELY. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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